



'Tiny Tears' & seedling '14SNO2'

Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single,
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses
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“We the Fairies blithe and antic, of dimensions not gigantic”

- Thomas Randolph

Miniature Hybrid Chinas – The Lawranceanas

The Lawranceanas - essentially miniature Hybrid Chinas – are early forerunners of today’s modern Miniature roses. The origin of these Lilliputians of the rose world is a mystery. What is known, however, is that rose culture in China is referenced as early as the 4th and 5th centuries A.D. and was more advanced than anywhere else in the world until the 19th century. The China roses we know today are considered a “complex of natural and cultivated hybrids that have evolved over more than a thousand years in Chinese gardens (*The History and Legacy of the China Rose*).” Repeated selection for desirable traits over an extended period of time resulted in a *R. chinensis* group characterized by repeat flowering plants often of compact, twiggy habit, with slender flower buds, blooms that deepen in color with age, few prickles, shiny pointed foliage, with presence of true reds. These “derivative” hybrids primarily found their way from China to Europe via East Indian trading routes whose primary ports-of-call were Calcutta, India and the islands of Mauritius and Réunion, the latter formerly known as the Île Bourbon, off the eastern coast of Madagascar [Editor’s note; in early rose literature a variety of Latinized species names were assigned to the China roses, including: *indica*, *semperflorens*, *sinica*, *bengalensis*, and *nankinensis*. The preferred classification is *Rosa chinensis*].



Rosa semperflorens
Painting by Mary Lawrance

Various reports indicate that a pale pink miniature rose having *R. chinensis* characteristics existed in gardens in England and France in the first decade of the 19th century. My own interpretation of those accounts is arranged in the following sequence.

London nurseryman James Colville, sometimes spelled Colvill, secured a plant of ‘Parson’s Pink China’/‘Old Blush’ from Kew Gardens in or around 1793 (*The Old Shrub Roses*, p. 77). He in turn began selling it to nurserymen in France and America. Dr. C. C. Hurst, quoted by Graham Thomas in the above volume, stated that among others Pierre Joseph Redouté and Claude Antoine Thory began raising seedlings from ‘Parson’ Pink’ as early as 1798 (p. 77). In 1805 Colville successfully raised a dwarf pink seedling he named ‘Pumila’ (dwarf) from ‘Parson’s Pink China’ which he shared with French rosarian Louis Noisette. In France the tiny double-flowered pink rose was renamed ‘Bengale Pompon’ and was easily rooted from cuttings.



Right: An early stylized illustration of *Rosa indica minor* that appeared in *Roses or a Monograph on the Genus Rosa*, Vol. II, Plate 68 (pub. 1828 by H. C. Andrews). Accompanying text indicates it was the above mentioned seedling raised by Colville, but given a new Latinized name by Andrews.



"Miss Lawrance's Rose" - Plate N° 1762

An 1815 edition of *Curtis' Botanical Magazine*, edited by Englishman John Sims, presented the earliest illustration and description of a small rose classified as *Rosa semperflorens minima*, also known as "Miss Lawrance's Rose." The illustration showed a single-flowered rose, but Sims' comments mention that "several varieties. . . differing in size, color, and scent, have, within these few years, found their way into different collections about town," and that he believed that they had been raised from seed (see text Vol. 42, plate 1762). Its common name was an English tribute to the loved painter and teacher of horticultural art Mary Lawrance whose work *A Collection of Roses From Nature* had just begun appearing in print in 1796 [Editor's note; an engraved edition of the book sold at Bonham's Auction in 2011 for \$28,000!! The book does not have an illustration of her namesake rose since its publication predated the rose's "appearance" in England]. The attention drawn to the rose post-publication in the horticultural periodical prompted English botanist Robert Sweet to state that it had been imported to London from Mauritius in 1810 coinciding with the British overthrow of French governance of Mauritius that same year. A nod seemingly confirming Sweet's version of its provenance appears in the conclusion of the brief horticultural entry stating that the plant from which the illustration was made had been given to him by a "Mr. Hudson from the war-office." Additionally, a rose fitting Sims' description, identified as *Rosa pusilla* ("minute/minature")

or in French, *Rosier nain de l'Inde*, is listed in an 1816 catalog of exotic plants cultivated on Mauritius hinting strongly that a miniature China rose, perhaps single-flowered, was familiar to gardeners on the island.

The third account of a pink miniature China's early appearance in continental Europe also has a ring of truth. In *History of the Rose*, Roy Shepherd states that Swiss botanist Augustin Pyramus de Candolle (1778-1841) secured a plant from Mauritius prior to its first appearance in England (p. 63), possibly during French rule of the island. De Candolle arrived in Paris in 1796 where he established himself as a highly regarded botanist, co-authoring a number of horticultural works. He is reported to have planted a specimen of *Rosa indica humilis* ("dwarf") in a garden he established in the Champagne region of France. From there a plant of the diminutive pink China found its way to the botanical gardens in Bern, Switzerland (possibly brought by de Candolle upon his return to his Swiss homeland in 1816?). Its presence in Bern was documented by another Swiss botanist strongly influenced by de Candolle, Nicolas Seringe, in his botanical work *Mélanges Botaniques* (a work describing five groupings of roses and the various cereal grains grown in Switzerland published in 1818); "All the characteristics of *R. indica* in miniature (p. 44)."

A fourth source appears in the writing of German historian and author Johann Christian van Stramberg. In a massive thirty-nine



"Miss Lawrance's Rose" - Plate N° 538
The Botanical Register (1821)



volume work entitled *Nützlicher und Rheinischer Antiquarius* (1854), detailing the history and geography surrounding the Rhine River, van Stramberg refers to a garden of roses located at the Stolzenfels Castle near Koblenz. He then proceeds to deliver a meandering narrative describing the introduction of Noisette, China, and Tea roses into Europe, particularly France, concluding with an index of varieties he recommended “out of his own experience.” In it a mention is made of ‘Rosa Lawrenceana,’ stating that it had arrived in France via Calcutta circa 1804. Van Stramberg describes it as single and rose-colored and goes on to say that in the decades since its arrival numerous miniature offspring had been raised, including Colville’s seedling ‘Pumila.’ Casting a shadow of doubt upon the accuracy of at least some measure of his account is an incorrect statement that it was described and pictured by Miss Lawrance.

Wherever the truth lies regarding their introduction to Europe, by the middle of the 19th century rose hybridizers had introduced three to four dozen miniature China seedlings generally referred to as Lawrenceanas [Editor’s note; over time Miss Lawrance’s name has been misspelled so frequently that the incorrect spelling has become the norm. Despite convention, “Lawranceana” appears to be the earliest and thus appropriate appellation.]. Although some were given formal names, many were merely distinguished by color or as single or double-flowered. French nurserymen and hybridizers who were swept up in the marketing craze include Vibert, Noisette, Laffay, Meilleux, and Mauget. In England the nurseries of Colville, James Lee (of ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ fame), and Thomas Rivers sold thousands of these tiny novelties. A Rivers’ reference in his very popular *Rose Amateur’s Guide* (p. 146) leads us to believe that because of their diminutive size the term “Fairy Roses” was another common term applied to the Lawrenceanas as early as 1840.

Top Left: *Rosa Indica Pumila*

‘Rosier nain du Bengale’

Les Roses, Vol. I – Redoute

Bottom Left: *Rosa Indica Pumila* (flora simplex)

‘Rosier nain du Bengale’ (a fleur simple)

Les Roses, Vol. II – Redoute

Thory notes similarities and differences between “Miss Lawrance’s Rose” and the single form pictured here perhaps based on inaccuracies portrayed in Sims’ original drawing.

Research done by Dr. G. H. M. Lawrence, presented in the 1953 *American Rose Annual* (“History and Nomenclature of the Fairy Roses”) and reexamined by Paul Barden, and that done by rose historian Brent C. Dickerson (“A Check-List of Lawrenceanas”) gives us a fairly exhaustive lists of cultivars. Interestingly, none are known to be in commerce [Editor’s note; speculators posit that two roses named below MAY be in commerce having been given different names . . . maybe.].

Alphabetic Table of Early Lawrenceana Cultivars

Cultivar	Intro.	Breeder	Description
‘A Rameaux Horizontaux’	1835	Laffay	Flesh pink trailing
‘Alba’ (aka ‘Blanc Double’)	1827	Mauget	White double
‘Belle Lawrenceia’	1840	Beluze	Unknown
‘Belle Liliputienne’	1830	Laffay	Medium pink double
‘Bicolore’	1833	Laffay	Pink/lilac
‘Blanc’	1835	Laffay	White/pink blush
‘Blush’ (aka ‘Fairy’)	1846	Unknown	Light pink
‘Caprice des Dames’ (aka ‘the Lady’s Whim’)	1831	Mielliez	Rose/violet pink
‘Carné Plein’	1828	Unknown	Flesh pink double
‘Cramoisi’ (aka ‘Lawrenceana Cramoisi’)	1830	Laffay	Dark red double
‘De Chartres’ (aka ‘Lawrence de Chartres,’ ‘Duc de Chartres,’ ‘Nain’)	1828	Laffay	Light pink double, tiny
‘Dieudonné’	1827	Mauget	Violet double
‘Double Blanche’	1842	Vibert	White double
‘Double Multiflore’	1853	Unknown	Unknown
‘Double’ (aka ‘Bengale Laurentia Double’)	1819	Vibert	Purplish pink double
‘Jenny’ (aka ‘Rubra’)	1836	Unknown	Crimson/purple red
‘La Désirée’	1848	Unknown	Unknown
‘La Gloire des Laurencias’ (aka ‘Gloire des Lawrenceas,’ ??‘Oakington Ruby’)	1829	Mielliez	Crimson/purple red
‘La Lapone’ (aka ‘Petite Lapone,’ ‘Petite Laponne’)	1829	Unknown	Cerise pink double
‘La Liliputienne’	1829	Mielliez	Rose pink double
‘La Miniature’	1829	Unknown	Dark pink/rose double
‘La Mouche’ (aka ‘Lawrenceana Mouche’)	1830	Mielliez	Cerise pink double
‘Master Burke’	1830	Feast	Rose pink double, tiny
‘Miss Lawrence Rouge’ (aka ‘Indica Minor Rubra’?)	1834	Wood	Red single

'Miss Lawrance's Rose' (aka 'Rosier de Lawrence Simple,' 'Lawrenciana,' 'Pumila Flore Simplici,')	England ca. 1810	Unknown Chinese origin	Light pink single
'Multiflore'	1841	Unknown	Rose pink
'Nigra'	1835	Unknown	Dark red
'Pallida'	1846	Unknown	Light pink
'Pompon Ancien' (?? 'Pompon de Paris,' Rosa rouletii)	1839	Unknown	Light pink
'Poupre Noir Simple'	1826	Hardy	Blackish single
'Poupre-Foncé Double'	1828	Unknown	Dark purple double
'Pourpre Brun'	1844	Unknown	Brown/purple
'Pourpre' (aka 'Pourpre Nain?')	1835	Unknown	Purple
'Pretty American' (aka 'Belle Americain')	1837	Boll	Unknown
'Pumila' (aka 'Bengale Pompon,' 'Nain,' 'Bijou,' 'Pompon Bijou')	1805	James Colville	Medium pink double
'Pygmée'	1833	Bizard	Unknown
'Retour du Printemps'	1835	Unknown	Bright rose
'Rose Double' (aka 'Rose Plein')	1826	Unknown	Rose pink double
'Rouge Double'	1826	Unknown	Red double
'Rouge Foncé'	1827	Mieliez	Dark red double
'Rouge-Pâle' (aka 'Bengale Rouge Pâle')	1827	Mieliez	Pale red double
'Zelinette'	1835	Unknown	Unknown

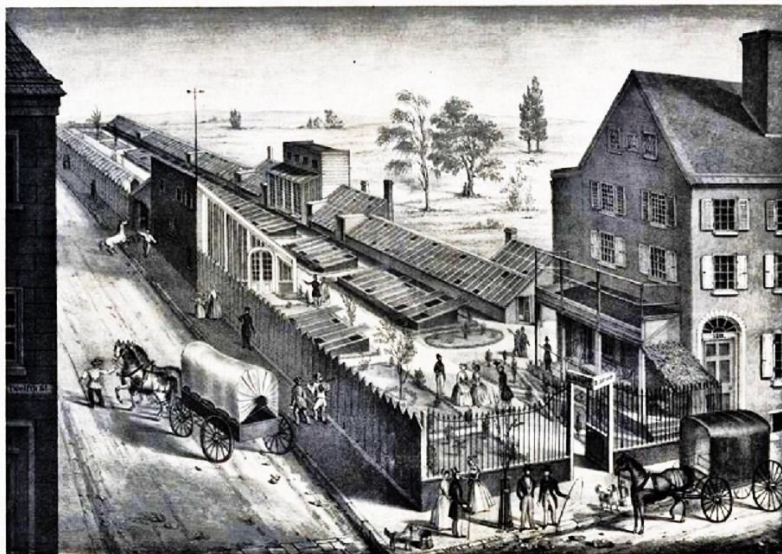
Meanwhile - American nurserymen were importing everything “new and improved” from the booming European rose trade. The Prince family was one of the preeminent New World horticultural dynasties, operating a commercial nursery in Flushing, New York established in 1738. William Prince, son of the founder, remained well connected to numerous European horticulturists in England, France, Holland, and Italy. To promote his vast enterprise he published *A Short Treatise on Horticulture* in 1828, one of the earliest American books on the subject.

In it he mentions that his collection of roses had recently grown to as many six hundred different cultivars. Among the roses of “China and India” Prince includes the “Dwarf,” or “Pompone Rose,” admired for its very small flowers, almost certainly a reference to the Colville/Noisette ‘Bengale Pompon.’ Distinguished from it is the “Lawencia Rose,” “the most diminutive [rose] known, both in leaf and flower (p. 148).” When his son’s [Robert] *Manuel of Roses* was posthumously published in 1846, thirteen varieties of Lawranceanas were listed.

A short note is required to draw a distinction between “Pompon” as a reference to China roses as opposed to the once-blooming Pompon Centifolias, i.e. ‘Rose de Meaux’ and ‘Burgundian Rose.’ Can be quite confusing initially!

Another New York family, the Parsons, became similarly engaged in the horticulture business in Flushing and were quite active in importing a broad spectrum of plants from Europe. The founder’s son, Samuel Bowne Parsons, Sr. (1819-1906), published the first of two important rose books, *The Rose: Its History, Poetry, Culture and Classification*, in 1847. He references “R. Lawrenceana” or “Lawrence’s China Rose,” noting that, “The beautiful little plants called fairy roses are nearly all varieties of R. Lawrenceana; and they are all worthy of culture, from their extreme dwarfness (p. 231).” Among a partial list of recommended China hybrids he draws attention to two named Lawranceana cultivars, ‘Caprice des Dames’ and ‘Retour du

VIEW OF ROBERT BUIST'S CITY NURSERY & GREENHOUSES AT 140 SOUTH TWELFTH ST. PHILA. 1846.



WHOLESALE & RETAIL HORTICULTURAL & AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE

37th Street at corner of 12th St. Philadelphia.

"View of Robert Buist's city nursery & greenhouses in Philadelphia, PA."
Note the cold-frames.

Printemps.' Despite a note assuring readers that a complete list of varieties would be inserted at the end of the text, publication deadlines forced him to forego its inclusion.

Attention should also be focused on a third American nurseryman with a strong rose interest – Philadelphian (by way of Scotland) Robert Buist. Partnering with Thomas Hibbert, a thriving florist business was opened in 1830. After Hibbert's death in 1837 Buist transformed the establishment into a retail seed store, nursery, and greenhouse enterprise. Although offering a wide variety of plants he took special interest in roses, traveling frequently to Europe to bring back new cultivars. In 1844 Buist published the highly respected

work, *The Rose Manual*, intended to provide minute detail on the culture of roses in America and accurate descriptions of recommended varieties. The book contains a brief chapter dedicated to the Lawranceanas mentioning but a few: 'La Miniature,' 'Gloire,' 'Bijou,' and uniquely, two American originated seedlings, 'Pretty American,' (introduced ca. 1837 by N.Y. nurseryman Daniel Boll) and 'Master Burke' (introduced circa 1830 by Samuel Feasts of Baltimore). Boll boasted in a letter to *Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture*, Vol. III, in April of 1837 that 'Pretty American' was "the smallest of all roses" and that "the plants do not grow more than six or seven inches high and the flower is about the size of a five-cent piece (p. 217)." An account appearing in the same periodical one month earlier stated that 'Mr. Burke,' "after seven or eight years had not attained two inches in height," and that "half of a common hen's egg-shell would have covered the whole bush without touching it (Vol. III, p. 129)." The report has been generally considered a Paul Bunyan-esque tall tale. However, an earlier narrative appears to lend some credence to the story's truthfulness. Describing an exhibit of "plants of horticultural interest" at a Maryland Horticultural Society meeting in May of 1833, *The New England Farmer and Horticultural Journal*, Vol. XI, No. 11 reports;

The . . . Rose, likewise obtained from seed by Mr. Feast, is the most curious Rose perhaps ever produced. It is a dwarf and so completely does it vindicate its title to that appellation that it has now reached its third year, the bush is not quite two inches in height! It is a sturdy little affair, well furnished with branches, and clothed with leaves of surprising neatness. The blooms are quite as extraordinary; they are double, of a beautiful color [light rose] and very well formed, and of little more than half the diameter of a five cent piece (p. 331)!"

Further south, the port city of Charleston, South Carolina was a rich horticultural center. John Champneys and Philippe Noisette are just two of the many nurserymen and rose enthusiasts who lived and worked there. Champneys had a long-standing business relationship with William Prince, Jr. and an extensive garden of roses. Although he died in 1820, most likely too early to have seen or raised any Lawranceanas, he was a close associate of Philippe Noisette. [Editor's note; Philippe, younger brother of Louis Noisette of Lyon,

France had been sent to Haiti as a teenager to miss the “trouble” of the French Revolution. As a young twenty-one year old, he, his Haitian-born wife Célestine, and their children fled Haiti during the Haitian Slave-Revolt, moving to Charleston in 1794. There, Noisette was appointed Superintendent of the South Carolina Medical Society Botanical Gardens.] Along with Champneys, Philippe dabbled in raising new varieties of roses from open-pollinated seeds, contributing to the origin of the class of roses known as the Noisettes. Seeds, cuttings, and plants exchanged hands between him and his brother Louis in France and were likewise imported from Europe and other geographic regions. [Editor’s note; Charleston native Joel Poinsett, U.S. Minister to Mexico under President James Madison, resettled in his home town of Charleston in 1815 bringing with him specimens of a unique native plant with red bracts that would later be named in his honor. Poinsett later visited nurseryman Robert Buist who recognized the plant’s potential cash crop value.]

As a result of the huge influx of horticulture during this time period there is reason to believe that some members of the Lawranceana class began to populate the gardens of Charleston. One documented link is found in the history of a family that relocated from Charleston to Florida in the 1850’s. Phillip Benjamin Harvey “P.B.H.” Dudley and family made several trips to the area before purchasing farm land in 1859 just west of modern-day Gainesville, Florida. Capt. Dudley (served in a Florida regiment during the Civil War) made numerous trips to Charleston to sell cotton and other crops raised on his Florida farm. They transported numerous roses from Charleston to their new homestead over the course of several decades. Among the many that would have been commercially available in Charleston - ‘Champneys’ Pink Cluster,’ the ‘Green Rose,’ ‘Old Blush,’ etc. - was a miniature pink China hybrid whose given name is lost to commerce. Family members recall that Dudley purchased the diminutive rose around the time of the birth of his first granddaughter Dolly (Catherine “Dolly” Dudley, b. 1878). In my garden “Dolly Dudley” has dime-sized medium pink blooms of about 20-25 petals and grows in a container about 12-15” in height and width.



“Dolly Dudley”

Photos by Stephen Hoy

“Abbott and Burns Family Rose”

The chronicle of the westward journey of many old rose varieties is told in Thomas Christopher’s wonderful book *In Search of Lost Roses*. However, despite the mention of many a China rose not one account is told of a Lawranceana type. As with ‘Dolly Dudley,’ a family history opens our eyes to the preservation and relocation of another historic “found” rose. In 1857 several families banded together to depart from their Arkansas homes and travel west to California. The Abbott, Burns, and Epperson expedition encountered many hardships and endured the loss of family members, livestock, and personal possessions. Suggesting something of its intrinsic value, a tiny pink China rose was among the belongings that survived the arduous journey. One of the Abbott daughters, Catherine, married young Jesse Burns the day after their arrival in California. The little rose, an Abbott family keepsake, survives to this day nurtured in the historic



rose garden located in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery known as the “Abbott and Burns Family Rose.” In my garden the little semi-double to double pink blossoms continue to remind one of the significance of plants as family heirlooms.

The story continues shaped to some extent by America’s Civil War. As conflicts over the issues of slavery and states’ rights became prominent, a push to establish a “Southern” approach to things agricultural and horticultural arose in the 1840’s and 50’s. Jarvis van Buren moved to Georgia to birth a Southern apple industry, Charles Axt resettled in Georgia hoping to develop a Southern wine industry, Dennis Redmond and Dr. Louis Berckmans established Fruitlands Nursery (fruit trees and ornamentals) on the site of the present-day Augusta Golf Club. Danish immigrant Robert Nelson moved to Macon, Georgia (just 20 miles from my home) in 1847 and created Troup Hill Nursery, offering hundreds of different types of fruit trees and over one hundred and fifty varieties of roses – all sold own-root [Editor’s note; Nelson went bankrupt within a decade. Philadelphia nurseryman Robert Buist was one of his largest creditors]. Although Nelson sold many Teas and Chinas, including the ‘Green Rose,’ no Lawranceanas were on his most recommended list. Another Southern nursery, however, can be credited with marketing several miniature China hybrids.



Bengale Pompons
Plate N° 56 from *Les Roses*
by Jamain and Forney (pub. 1873)

Scottish horticulturist Thomas Affleck immigrated to the United States in 1832, living in New York, Pennsylvania, and Indiana before moving to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1839. There he assumed the post of editor of the *Western Farmer and Gardener*. In 1842 he resettled near Natchez, Mississippi taking over the management of his second wife’s plantation and establishing one of the earliest commercial nurseries in the Deep South. He purchased and introduced to southerners a vast number of plants from a variety of American and European nurserymen. Beginning in 1845 and continuing to 1865 he published and edited *Affleck’s Southern Rural Almanac and Plantation Garden Book*, addressing an extremely broad variety of agricultural and horticultural topics. An 1851 edition includes comments on numerous classes of roses recommended for the South and available from his nursery. The following brief statement appears, “The Miniature China Roses (*Rosa Lawrenceana*) are pretty little gems, of many colours and shades (p. 63).” Affleck credits the English firm of Thomas Rivers as the original source of all his rose offerings, in effect a commercial “stamp of approval” as to their quality. Affleck was connected to New Orleans culture through his publishing interests and through business contacts. At least one Lawranceana-type, possibly introduced to commerce through Affleck, has strong ties to The Big Easy. Some measure of its connection can be found in the writing of Mississippi native Georgia Torrey Drennan, later a resident of New Orleans.

A youthful Georgia Torrey, daughter of a wealthy plantation owner, married young lawyer and judge William Drennan at the outbreak of the Civil War. Ms. Drennan would go on to become a horticulturist of note. A number of articles written by the well-educated author on a variety of subjects, including poinsettias, hyacinths, water lilies, and peppers, appeared in numerous “Southern” home and garden related publications. Her most enduring effort however, was dedicated to roses and in particular, the still-new repeat-flowering roses highly suited for growing in the Deep South and Gulf Coast. Published in 1912, Drennan’s *Everblooming Roses for the Outdoor Garden of the Amateur*, remains a classic rose book flowing with passion and devotion for life in the garden. It encapsulates her knowledge of and familiarity with the Tea, Noisette, and China rose families, the Hybrid Remontants (Hybrid Perpetuals), Polyanthas, Hybrid Rugosas, as well as “old” once-blooming

favorites from her family's Round Hill Plantation gardens, (north of Jackson, MS and burned to the ground during the war), the garden she and husband William established in nearby Lexington, MS, and the New Orleans garden she created in 1895.

Among the many varieties of roses included in her book is a very brief mention of the "Lawrienciana or Picayune" rose. From the text one concludes that it is a singular cultivar, pink in color, eminently everblooming "with undiminished vigor (p. 122)." She comments that it "makes an ornament for the garden so striking that the wonder is that it has ever fallen out of popular favor and is not seen elsewhere than in old gardens with other old-fashioned plants that are still there simply because they are naturally hardy and long-lived (p. 122)." Ms. Drennan also explains the use of the term "Picayune" – a reference to a small Spanish coin common in New Orleans culture. About the size of a dime, they were demonetized in 1857, becoming essentially worthless. Although in today's parlance the term has come to mean "of little value" or "insignificant," its association with the Lawranceanas is tied to the size of the coin, not its value.

Two "Picayune" roses – Lawranceana types – with traces of late 19th/early 20th century New Orleans heritage remain with us, however whether they are/were named varieties or seedlings is a mystery unlikely to be solved. Ms. Drennan's medium pink double-flowered Lawranceana may well have been passed along in New Orleans' gardens in the fashion of many other roses. One HMF member, Sarah Jumel, relates that for decades several relatives living in New Orleans grew what they knew as 'Pink Picayune,' most likely purchased from a local nursery named Guillot's [destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and with no apparent connection to the famous French family of the same name]. This same rose was discovered growing along old U.S. Highway 290, near Brenham, TX, near Mike Shoup's Antique Rose Emporium and coincidentally, near the location of nurseryman Thomas Affleck's second Texas-based business. Now given the found rose name "Highway 290 Pink Buttons," it has been speculated that it and 'Pink Picayune' are one and the same (maybe also . . . *Rosa rouletii*?). A second rose, primarily white with just a blush of pink, is simply identified as 'Picayune.' The earliest mention I have found so far is in *Modern Roses V* (pub. 1958). There it is tentatively classed as a Polyantha, "Possibly an old variety from France, still grown in the South," and is characterized as "light pink, opening white" (p. 296). Corroboration that white-colored "Picayune" roses were known as far back as the late 1800's was found in an 1894 edition of *The Mid-Continent Magazine* (formerly *The Southern Magazine*) that advertised dolls with "faces made of white Picayune roses" (Vol. 3, p. 404). The provenance of the cultivar I grow as 'Picayune' can be traced to South Carolina nursery Roses Unlimited. Co-owners Pat Henry and Bill Patterson have had the variety in the RU



"Highway 290 Pink Buttons" - unknown

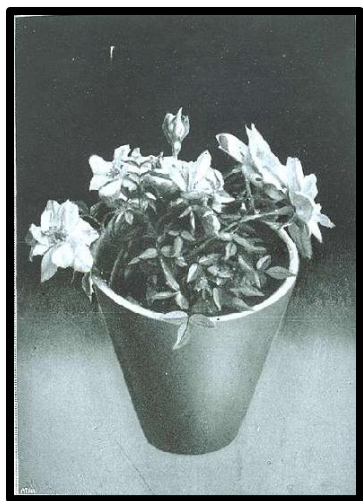
'Picayune' - Photo by Stephen Hoy



catalog for over three decades listed as a China. Pat informed me she got the plant from a friend's garden in Charlotte, NC. An old *Combined Rose List* shows that it was at one time available from OGR enthusiast Mike Lowe.

Let's briefly detour back across the Atlantic Ocean. Significant in the history of the Lawranceanas and in the evolution of today's modern Miniature roses was the introduction of *Rosa multiflora* 'Polyantha' into Europe in the early 1860's. From it Jean-Baptiste Andre Guillot raised a number of second generation seedlings out of which he selected for introduction in 1875 what is considered to be the earliest Polyantha rose, 'Pâquerette.' While hybridizers were introducing new Polyantha cultivars seedsman Leonard Lille of Lyon developed a strain of dwarf, remontant roses derived from *R. multiflora* that could be grown quite easily from seed. Marketed as 'Plate Bande,' or 'Polyantha nana perpetua,' the seedlings were reblooming with double flowers of white and varying shades of pink. Several years later, a second strain appeared in catalogs sold as 'Multiflora Nana,' generally producing a greater number of single or nearly single miniature roses also in whites and pinks. The more hardy character of *R. multiflora* redirected hybridizing efforts away from the Lawranceanas and towards the new Polyantha class.

The history-line of the Lawranceanas essentially comes to a screeching halt with the "discovery" in 1917 of one of today's most prominent Lawranceanas – *Rosa rouletii*. An officer and surgeon in the Swiss Army Reserves during World War I, Dr. (Andre) Roulet, wrote his friend, Swiss horticulturist, nurseryman, and alpine specialist Henri Correvon, that he had noticed a diminutive potted rose bush on the windowsill of a home in the resort village of Mauborget. It was a mere two inches tall and was reported to have been growing in the container for over 100 years, blooming throughout the growing season. When Correvon visited the town he reported that fire damage prevented him from collecting cuttings or a plant. To his relief, a villager informed him that a woman in the nearby town of Onnens had a plant of the same variety. Sometime later he and Dr. Roulet called on the rose's owner and obtained a small slip. From that miniscule beginning a brief revival of interest was born. By 1922 Correvon reported big numbers of the little novelty rose, now named for his friend, were being sold in England, France, and America. He went on to further study his "discovery," contrasting it with the single-flowered "Miss Lawrance's Rose" which he already had growing in his extensive garden. The scientifically-minded horticulturist also compared it to another cultivar already familiar to Swiss rose enthusiasts – *Rosa indica humilis* – brought to Switzerland by the aforementioned Augustin Pyramus de Candolle roughly a century earlier. The size difference presented a problem that Correvon concluded might be explained by container-cultural factors. The speculation that revolves around the similarity/identity of *Rosa rouletii* and the China rose in commerce known as 'Pompon de Paris' continues to this day (A scientific study presented by Valerie Ann Soules as part of her M.S. degree requirements at Texas A&M and supervised by Dr. David Byrne states that *R. rouletii* appears to be a sport of 'Old Blush' and that they and 'Pompon de Paris' are strongly related to one another.



Left: 1922 photograph of
R. rouletii by
Henri Correvon

Right: *R. rouletii*
Photo by
Stephen Hoy



[Editor's note; a fascinating article appears in the 2013 issue of *By Any Other Name*, a publication of the Heritage Roses Group of the WFRS. Swiss rosarian Marlise Fertig gives an account of her own journey to Mauborget to uncover more about the discovery of *R. rouletii*. Interestingly, she found no record of any fire damage to the town!]

The growing commercial availability of *R. rouletii* caught the special attention of two European rose hybridizers. The Netherlands' Jan de Vink contributed a number of early cultivars beginning with 'Peon,' a cross of *R. rouletii* with the Polyantha 'Gloria Mundi' (intro. in 1935), and several descendants from it - 'Red Imp' ('Maid Marion' in the U.S.), and 'Cinderella.' Spain's Pedro Dot began making crosses of *R. rouletii* and 'Pompon de Paris' with various Hybrid Teas and Polyanthas (also Floribundas which were known first as Hybrid Polyanthas) resulting in a number of miniaturized hybrids - 'Baby Goldstar,' 'Perla de Alcanada,' 'Perla de Monserrat,' 'Para Ti,' and perhaps the smallest rose ever introduced to commerce, 'Si.'



Left: 'Peon'/'Tom Thumb'
Photo by Stephen Hoy



Right: 'Cinderella'
Photo by Paul Barden

Roughly at the same time Mr. de Vink's 'Peon'/'Tom Thumb' was developing among his seedlings a novel rose was discovered in a garden in England. Early miniature rose enthusiast Margaret Pinney, quoting miniature tree and shrub expert Anne Ashberry, wrote that rose breeder C. R. Bloom procured a plant or cuttings from an elderly lady near Oakington in Cambridgeshire. The variety, given the name 'Oakington Ruby,' is thought to have come from the garden of the ancient Ely Cathedral and is very possibly an historic Lawranceana still growing from the heyday years of their popularity. Ms. Pinney noted in her classic *Book of the Miniature Rose* that Mr. Coyne, the rose propagator of the old New Jersey firm Bobbink and Atkins, told her that it and 'Gloire de Lawrencianas' were "evidently the same (p. 133)."

'Si' Photo source unknown

'Oakington Ruby' Photo by Stephen Hoy



Robert Pyle of Star Roses/Conard-Pyle fame had established a working relationship with many of Europe's leading rose hybridizers in the early 1900's. Soon after seeing Jan de Vink's 'Peon' he recognized its commercial potential in America and gained permission to market it from their West Grove, PA business newly named 'Tom Thumb.' So many orders for the "miniature" rose arrived that it had to be removed from the catalog for a season so that stock could be built up sufficient to meet the demand.

A California nurseryman and rose hybridizer by the name of Ralph Moore purchased plants of 'Tom Thumb' and 'Oakington Ruby' soon after their introduction to the U.S. and a dream that was to change the world of roses was born. 'Oakington Ruby' produced a number of early self-pollinated seedlings for Ralph in the 1950's - 'Centennial Miss,' 'Patty Lou' (also known as 'Petite'), and 'Pink Joy.' Ralph simultaneously discovered that crossing these early miniaturized hybrids with other types would often result in plants with miniature flowers and a new class of Miniature roses was off and running – which is, of course, another story. Today's Miniature roses are a complex group characterized by an extremely diverse genetic blending of rose families – China, Polyantha, Floribunda, Multiflora, Wichuraiana, and Hybrid Tea just to name a few.

Is there a future for this more or less overlooked class of dwarf China roses? Are they just a stepping stone leading to a forgotten destination? Have they joined other classes of roses supplanted by the newest catalog offerings? For this rose lover . . . the Lawranceanas are roses that simply bring wonder into the garden, a feeling summed up nicely in the words of poet Amos Bronson Alcott -

“Who loves a garden still his Eden keeps,
Perennial pleasures plants, and wholesome harvest reaps.”



'Perla Rosa' by Carolyn Parker
'Centennial Miss' by Paul Barden



'Pink Joy' by Paul Barden
'Yellow Bantam' by Paul Barden



'Pinkie' Photo by Kim Rupert
'Mr. Bluebird' by R. Rippetoe



The Single Miniflora

By Bob Martin

The miniflora is intermediate between the floribunda and miniature rose, both in the size of the bloom and of the bush. The class was added to the list of ARS approved horticultural classifications in 1999, and initial expectations were that it would accommodate the small floribunda-type bushes being introduced in Europe under names such as “patio” roses. In the U.S., however, it became an immediate favorite of exhibitors with the result being that the best-known minifloras are typically smaller versions of the hybrid tea.

The name “Mini-Flora” had been trademarked by the late Ben Williams, who transferred the trademark to the ARS as an inducement to adopt the class. The ARS, however, does not sell roses and had no use for the trademark, which was later allowed to lapse. Nevertheless, the ARS Classification Committee originally used the spelling “Mini-Flora” when it made its proposal to adopt the class. Trademarked names, however, do not control ordinary spelling (think “Chick-Fil-A”) and after several years of using the dreadful “Mini-Flora” spelling, the ARS board of directors, meeting at the 2009 Fall Convention, made it official that the rose class is properly spelled “miniflora”.

The advent of the miniflora class raised the question of how minifloras should be judged in ARS rose shows. This question was resolved in October 2004 when the ARS Board of Directors, at its meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma adopted a proposal submitted by the ARS Horticultural Judging Committee to replace the existing chapter on minifloras in the *Guidelines for Judging Roses* with a rewritten chapter. The principal objective of the new chapter was to establish that one-bloom specimens of minifloras are to be judged by the standards applicable to the classic hybrid tea form. It also established that, with respect to the consideration of the judging element of “size”, all things being equal, a miniflora of larger size should be rewarded.

The new chapter also established the principle that single miniflora blooms are judged by exactly the same standards as those applied to the single hybrid tea. In like manner, it specified that miniflora sprays should be placed in a special class and judged by the same standards as floribunda sprays. Under this latter standard, individual florets in a spray may possess exhibition or decorative form, depending on what is typical of that variety. That opened the door to showing single minifloras as sprays. With the decision having been made that one-bloom specimens of minifloras are to be judged by the standards applicable to the classic hybrid tea form, most of the initial introductions of minifloras, as well as reclassifications of existing roses, were of minifloras displaying hybrid tea form. There were, however, a number of exceptions, including a few minifloras of single form.

The first significant miniflora single was ‘Robin Red Breast’, a 1983 introduction from Interplant originally introduced as a miniature, and reclassified in December 2006. Earlier that year a specimen of ‘Robin Red Breast’ shown by John & Caroline Fredette had been selected as the best miniature single bloom at the 2006 Seattle national convention. ‘Robin Red Breast’ features dark red blooms, with a white eye and a silver reverse. The blooms appear individually and in clusters. The foliage and bushy growth are proportionate to the



‘Copper Star’
Photo by Stephen Hoy



bloom. A cross of an unknown seedling × the miniature rose ‘Eyepaint’, it carries an unusually high Roses in Review garden rating of 8.7.

Following the reclassification of ‘Robin Red Breast’, Heirloom Roses reclassified its 1992 introduction, ‘Glamour Girl’ as a miniflora. A single, bearing white flowers with a wide dark red edge, this was originally listed in the Heirloom catalogue as a patio rose. The blooms are large and the bush very floriferous, often making stunning sprays, as well as a bold statement in the garden. The rose was bred by John Clements from undisclosed parentage.

Heirloom Roses also later reclassified another John Clements introduction ‘Will-o’-the-Wisp,’ which had been originally introduced as a miniature in 1998. This very attractive bicolor single is pink with a yellow center and deep amber stamens. The bush is very vigorous and grows more like a climber. The blooms are somewhat small on thin stems but the color is novel and attractive.

In addition to the reclassifications, a few miniflora singles were registered in the early years. These include ‘Kieran’s Rose’, a yellow with red edges introduced in 2006 by amateur hybridizer Sergio Aguilar from a cross of ‘Elizabeth Taylor’ × ‘Playboy’

Counter Clock-wise from upper left:
‘Robin Red Breast’ Photo by Al Whitcomb
‘Glamour Girl’ Photo by Stephen Hoy
‘Will-o’-the-Wisp’ Photo by Stephen Hoy
‘Kieran’s Rose’ Photo by Justin Ekuan



The landscape for the miniflora single was dramatically changed in 2008 with the introduction by Whit Wells of 'Sunglow'. This is a gorgeous golden large single of undisclosed breeding that presents on nicely proportioned foliage both individually and as attractive sprays. It is also said to be intensely fragrant, though I have not noticed this. Reviewers in *Horizon Roses*, the annual review by exhibitors of top new exhibition varieties, warmly praised 'Sunglow', however several expressed concern on where it would be shown, there being in general no separate class for miniflora singles at rose shows. This soon became a non-issue since show schedule writers typically expanded the miniature single class to permit both miniature and miniflora singles. And with its bold color and large size, 'Sunglow' promptly began to dominate the class. It also began to win in the miniflora spray class with regularity. Most recently its success reached a peak when a specimen shown by Carol & Dave Shockley of Conway, Arkansas was awarded the GardenWeb Rose Forum Best of Show Trophy at the Fall 2014 Tyler National Show, which trophy is awarded to the best one stem specimen on the trophy table.



The success of 'Sunglow' has been followed by two additional reclassifications of single minifloras. These include 'Sharon' Delight', an ivory white single from Ralph Moore originally introduced as a shrub in 1996. A cross of the miniature rose, 'Golden Angel' × by the old tea rose, 'Safrano', this is a compact and rounded shrub of two to three feet in height and about three feet in width. The blooms typically present five wavy and ruffled petals with an average diameter of two and a half inches with a large circle of golden stamens. The rose was named for Sharon van Enoo, an eminent southern Californian editor and rosarian who has prominently promoted the roses of Louis Lens, David Austin and Ralph Moore.

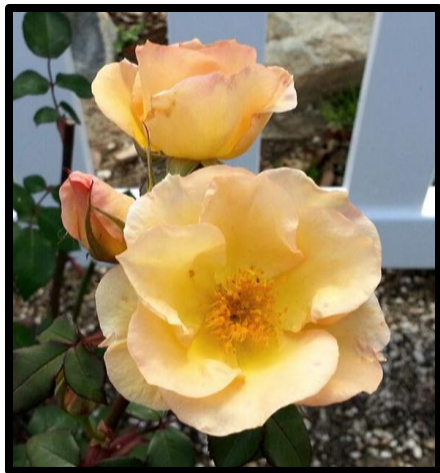


Also recently reclassified as a miniflora is 'Poppy' an orange red single introduced in 1960 as a floribunda. A cross of the floribundas 'Cocorico' × 'Geranium Red', the blooms are presented individually and in large sprays on a modest, but prolific knee-high shrub. The blooms are reminiscent of the California Poppy, *Eschscholzia californica*, a species of flowering plant native to California that was selected as the state flower by the California State Floral Society in December 1890, its golden blooms being deemed a fitting symbol for the Golden State.



Intrigued by the success of the outstanding gold miniflora single, 'Sunglow', I registered 'Angel Grace', my lovely, single pale yellow cross of 'Anne Morrow Lindbergh' x 'Julia Child' in 2014 as a miniflora. It is a healthy grower, making a 4-foot x

'Sunglow' Photo by Dona Martin
'Sharon's Delight' Photo by Stephen Hoy
'Poppy' Photo by Dona Martin



2-foot bush with abundant sprays of blooms that start off yellow and gold, fading to a rich cream. The rose is named after my granddaughter, Evangeline Grace.

In addition, I registered 'Bronze Medal', another single miniflora from the cross of 'Anne Morrow Lindbergh' x 'Julia Child'. This presents bronze/copper-colored, single blooms, appearing individually and in small sprays, on a 3-foot x 3-foot bush with clean, glossy foliage.

Most recently, Burling Leong, who had worked for many years with Ralph Moore and maintains a nursery in Visalia, California, has introduced 'Maroon Eight', a single miniflora with dark velvety red blooms that age to dark velvety maroon. When asked the origin of the name, Burling reported simply that the rose is maroon with typically eight petals.

Richard Anthony, of For Love of Roses, LLC in Memphis, Tennessee has also introduced a line of single miniature and miniflora roses, including three miniflora singles in 2015. They include, 'Evening Star', a large (3"+) pinkish mauve single that more often than not has only five petals. It has a white eye and a slight fragrance. 'Morning Star' is also a large (2 1/2 - 3") yellow miniflora single that will remind some of a super size 'My Sunshine'. The stamens are a darker yellow and stand out. The petal count is normally five and on occasion will be up to eight petals. The third is named 'Tom Mayhew' and was registered on February 11, 2015, which the 80th birthday of Tom Mayhew, the noted Pennsylvania rosarian and photographer. The rose is a 2 1/2' single that is magenta colored with a large white eye and yellow stamens. Richard says that it "has that WOW factor that will make exhibitors and judges alike stop and admire the rose."

In conclusion, it will be seen that the miniflora single, promoted by the success of 'Sunglow' has come of age on the show tables, and with its typical modest size bush is an excellent choice for a border or small spot in the garden.

Counter Clock-wise From Upper Left:

'Angel Grace'

Photo by Bob Martin

'Bronze Medal'

Photo by Bob Martin

'Maroon Eight'

Photo by Burling Leong

'Evening Star'

Photo by Brenna Bosch

'Tom Mayhew'

Photo by Brenna Bosch





'Simply Sally'
Photo by Stephen Hoy



'Robin's Star'
Photo by Brenna Bosch



'Copper Star' seedling
Photo by Stephen Hoy

From the Editor

I confess . . . I strayed . . . the Lawranceanas that are commercially available to us today aren't single or even nearly single-flowered. My interest in them was sparked when I met Linda Rengarts, a volunteer at the Dudley Farm near Gainesville, Florida. Linda shared a plant of "Dolly Dudley" and years of accumulated information about the family and the role period correct roses continue to play in creating a feeling of historic authenticity on the property. She has assisted in spearheading efforts to catalog and identify roses whose long-time residence there has been verified by surviving family members.

Not long after adding "Dolly Dudley" to my garden I had the delightful opportunity to meet Anita Clevenger at a Heritage Rose Foundation convention. She shared information about the "Abbott and Burns Family Rose" and I was able to purchase a plant from Malcolm Manners.

That led me on a wild goose chase to obtain other Lawranceanas and/or Lawranceana types. They were added to a small collection of micro-minis already in the garden. My interest in them had begun years earlier and had been augmented by the gift of a professionally created bonsai mini from my son, an avid bonsai enthusiast. See photos below of some of these unique little rose wonders (including some seedlings).

An expression of gratitude is due a number of people who graciously agreed to share information and photographs. Thanks to Bob Martin, our new ARS Vice-President, for contributing a fine article about a relatively unfamiliar class of roses! Thanks to Linda Rengarts and Anita Clevenger for taking time to send me information. Peggy Martin, Sarah Jumel, Kim Rupert, Pat Henry, and Bill Patterson patiently answered questions. Paul Barden is an encyclopedia of rose knowledge, in particular about the work of Ralph Moore, and is one of the few hybridizers who has recently registered new micro-mini cultivars. Thanks to Paul for also giving permission to use his photos. As always many others have generously given permission to publish their excellent digital images.

Be looking for a down-sized edition of the newsletter in the next couple months. I've tried a number of new roses this past year – many with very positive results. The next issue will draw attention to "on-the-horizon" or "on-the-periphery" roses. Meanwhile, I'm preparing a faculty recital to be performed at Mercer University on January 20, 2016 in celebration of my upcoming twelve year transplant anniversary!

Lastly, mention of a newly acquired book. *Chasing the Rose* by Andrea di Robilant is a journal-like story chronicling the author's real-life attempt to trace the history of and identify a raspberry and peach scented found China rose growing on an old estate belonging to his family almost one hundred years earlier. Tied to the mystery is the fact di Robilant's great-great-great-grandmother was an acquaintance of Josephine Bonaparte. Conversations with old-rose enthusiasts Eleonora Garland and Helga Brichet are included in the narrative. I couldn't put the book down.

Some Tiny Treasures Currently In My Garden



'Hi'

Photo by Stephen Hoy



'Oui'

Photo by Stephen Hoy



'Willie Winkie'

Photo by Kathy Strong



'Sweet Sue'

Photo source unknown



'Elfinglo'

Photo by Kathy Strong



'Tiny Tears'

Photo by Stephen Hoy



'Midget' Photo by Stephen Hoy



'Cineraire'

Photo by Stephen Hoy



'Shawn Boy' Photo by Paul Barden

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North American Sources:

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Rogue Valley Roses – roguevalleyroses.com
Rose Petals Nursery – rosepetalsnursery.com
Roses Unlimited – ownrootrosesunlimited.com

P.S. – Fans of the history of miniature roses might be interested in the following “older” books. 1.) *Miniature Trees and Shrubs* by Anne Ashberry (1958). Although not dedicated entirely to roses this book has an extremely informative chapter on mini roses then in existence. It features roses bred by de Vink and early British mini enthusiast Thomas Robinson and twenty-four black and white photos of very rare varieties. 2.) *Miniature Roses* by Roy Genders (1960) the first book entirely dedicated to mini roses. 3.) *The Miniature Rose Book* by Margaret E. Pinney (1964) first American book dedicated to mini roses.

One of 3 unique OP seedlings from the found Bermuda mystery rose ‘Emmie Gray.’ Blooms .75” in diameter; very small foliage; habit upright to 12”.

Seedling on front cover is from ‘Snowcone.’ Tiny in every respect.

